

Which Road For The Bishop Museum?

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

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14 RESEARCH-STAFF FIRED

If you haven't yet heard, at least 14 researchers and research support staff have been fired by Bishop Museum's new director since July 15, 1985.

The director and the Museum's Trustees plead poverty.

On the other hand, new administrative positions have been created and administrative vacancies have been filled.

Researchers' pay has always been low. They loved their work, were devoted to the collections, and didn't complain about low pay. Salaries of the new administrative positions, however, are much higher.

The staff learned they were fired when their names were announced publicly at an all-staff meeting late on Friday afternoon, June 21st. They had three weeks notice.

Why wasn't any attempt made to call people in and explain the situation to them?

Why was it necessary to run over employees who had been devoted and productive staff members, many for over two decades?

Why the rush? What was accomplished?

Ho'o Hawai'i does not know the exact reason for the firings, but some interesting possible reasons have been mentioned to us and they include the following.

The layoffs occurred just before June 30th, which is the end of the Museum's fiscal year.

Perhaps the new and out-of-line administrative salaries had upset the budget and had to be covered up.

Time was too short to talk to each researcher individually or to allow time to look for new jobs. So the quick firings occurred.

In other words, research staff were sacrificed for administrative staff salaries. One insider hinted to Ho'o Hawai'i that the 14 fired staff had a total salary about equal to 4 administrative staff.

We of Ho'o Hawai'i regard this loss as unjustifiable. We call upon the Trustees to

take immediate steps to restore the positions and the people, even if this means cuts in administration.

VALUABLE EXPERIENCE LOST

To name only a few of the researchers and support staff which were fired from the Museum:

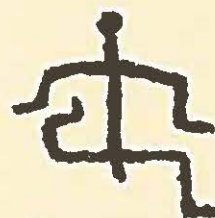
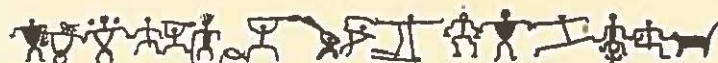
- Candida Cardenas, 21 years experience;
- Frances Furtado, 26 years;
- Frank Howarth, 15+ years;
- Marion Kelly, 26+ years;
- Pat McCoy, 14 years;
- Grace Nakahashi, 26 years;
- G. Allan Samuelson, 23 years;
- Kazuko Sinoto, 13+ years.

When all of the years of all of the people fired are added up, some 214 years of experience and knowledge, carefully paid for and built up, has been lost.

Such a loss is a great tragedy and one which was not necessary.

Ho'o Hawai'i joins with all the people who have looked into this matter and are amazed and saddened.

We, too, call for a correction to Museum policy and a rehiring of these valued staff before it is too late to get them back.



HO'O HAWAII, a Committee
Concerned for the Museum's Future

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE "CRISIS"

Is there a "crisis" at the Bishop Museum? Supposedly the story goes like this:

First, a new director was hired -- Donald Duckworth. He talked of "new policies" for the Museum.

Second, half of the research staff was fired with three weeks' notice.

Third, the director explained that it was all because of a "crisis".

Fourth, newspaper articles appeared which talked about the "crisis" and "dwindling" funds at the Museum.

Naturally, the public got the idea that the Museum was going broke and that there was a real crisis. So it made sense to fire people.

But is this story correct? Ho'o Hawai'i thinks not.

The Trustees admitted to Ho'o Hawai'i in August that the Museum was not going broke.

They also said that the money in their reserves had actually increased from a couple million dollars to about \$11 million over the past 8 years or so. We certainly don't call that "dwindling"!

They also admitted that the Museum was actually making money as recently as the early 1980s.

These are the true facts, and the Trustees admitted them because Ho'o Hawai'i had researched the Museum's finances.

Ho'o Hawai'i does not think the "crisis" ever really existed. The only real problem the Museum had the last couple of years was not getting enough money.

And what is the solution to this problem?

To get more money, of course!

And who is responsible for getting money for the Museum?

The Trustees!

WHAT IS THE MUSEUM SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?

It is clear from the original trust documents that the Bishop Museum had the main purpose of research.

The Trustees were directed in 1896 to develop the museum as "a scientific institution" concentrating on research and education.

So, how do the Trustees and Director propose to carry out the research and educational goals outlined in the charter without researchers? It's impossible!

What, then, is their plan for the Museum -- just another tourist trap?

CUTS TO RESEARCH

Very few people remember the Museum in the 1930s. The reason is that it did not open its doors to the public -- you needed special permission to come in, and there were very few exhibits.

Few people even remember the Museum right after World War II. The reason is that there was still only about 12 employees, and no one to help the public.

Then, in the 1950s, things began to change.

In the next ten years, employees went from 12 to over 100. A new building was built.

The Planetarium was built. Thousands of school children and adults began to come see the new exhibits and other programs.

What made this possible?

In the 1950s and 1960s the Federal government and others began funding the kind of research that the Museum is famous for. This money not only paid the researcher's salaries, but also made money available for more research staff, for buildings, and for support staff.

By the early 1960s, the Federal government was paying for research work which amounted to over one-half of the total income to the Museum.

The director at that time reported that the expansion was primarily due to only one thing: the excellent research staff that had brought in so much research money.

The research money eventually leveled off in the early 1970s, and today other sources of funds are also important.

But the research income has been the number one long-term source of funds for the Museum.

More importantly, it has been one of the most stable sources of income.

To suddenly fire one-half of the research staff will lead to an eventual decline in the quality of the exhibits and educational programs.

But, beyond all that, it just doesn't make good business sense.

The Museum has nearly a million dollars a year of income for its research program. You cut half the research staff, you save maybe \$300,000 in salaries. But you lose maybe \$500,000 in income.

But, worse than that, research money is dependent on the size of the research staff and their experience.

You cut out half of your good people and maybe more than half of the research grants will dry up.



HO'O HAWAI'I PROTESTS FIRINGS

Was it really necessary to cripple the Bishop Museum's research functions in order to take care of Museum losses in 1984 and 1985?

The Museum Trustees have argued that they had no choice. Ho'o Hawai'i challenges this.

First, we do not believe that the losses were due to any increase in research expenses. Instead, we believe the losses were caused by increases in administration and public relations costs.

By firing low-paid research staff, the Trustees have focused on the cost of research, as if this were the cause of the losses, which it is not.

Second, we are concerned over how the firings were carried out.

They were not done in a humane way. They were not done in a normal business-like manner.

People were hurt. Careers got blasted. Not even a public apology has been made. Nor has even a public statement been made that they will be rehired when the budget is balanced, which would be the normal business practice at similar institutions.

It is important to realize that the people fired care about their work and about the future of the Museum.

Many of them, together with their colleagues who remain, were willing to take going.

Their job was research, and they did it well. The Trustees' job is fundraising, and the Trustees did less well at their job. But the researchers and other staff were willing to give the Trustees other suggestions.

But the Trustees did not consult with the staff and the staff's advice was not taken.

Ho'o Hawai'i believes that the staff, including the fired workers, should be given a chance to make their ideas known to the Trustees, and that the fired staff should receive recognition equal to their contributions to the Museum.

Such goes as well for Dr. Frank Radovsky and anyone else who has resigned in protest over this whole affair.

Third, we are concerned over what will happen to the future of research at the Museum.

According to the Museum's Charter, the primary responsibility of the Trustees is towards research. This has been true since 1896 when Charles Bishop established the Museum in memory of his beloved wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

Yet research, particularly in native Hawaiian culture, has been declining for years

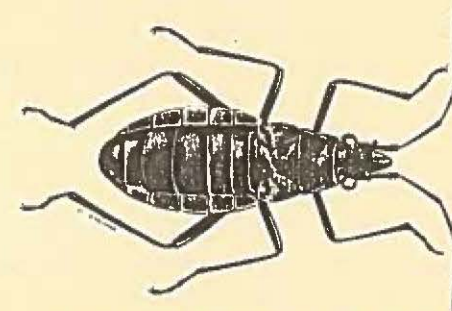
and is now crippled.

Other areas have also been hit hard. A recent bright spot was the acclaimed book on Japanese immigrants, co-authored by Kazuko Sinoto; but she has now been fired and the immigrant research division at the Museum has been basically wiped out.

The dismissed researchers will have no time to train any replacements. They will disperse around the world; some may move into new careers. Unwritten research discoveries and information will remain unwritten and will be lost to the public forever.

The consequence will be a total loss in the future of the roles played by these individuals -- a loss to all of the people of Hawai'i.

We of Ho'o Hawai'i regard this loss as unjustified and unjustifiable. We call upon the Trustees to take immediate steps to restore the positions and the people, even if this means cuts in administration.



Wekiu from Mauna Kea, Hawaii.
Bishop Museum collection

WHO OWNS BISHOP MUSEUM?

The Bishop Museum was originally a trust established by Charles Bishop in memory of his beloved wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi.

In 1974 the trust was replaced with a non-profit corporation, chartered by the State of Hawai'i.

The non-profit corporation's "membership" consists of its own Trustees.

To be a member of the Bishop Museum Association does not allow you to vote in the decisions of the Museum.

Only the Trustees, who are called "regular members" are allowed to vote.

Hence, they elect themselves.

They also have "full control of the management of the affairs, business and property of the corporation." In other words, they "own" the Museum, its collections, research, buildings, exhibits, grounds, and everything else.

No other member of the public has any vote or say on setting policy at the Museum.

WHAT HO'O HAWAI'I HAS BEEN DOING

On June 24 this year with no advance notice 13 researchers and support workers at the Bishop Museum were dismissed (the number was later amended to 14).

Included were a number of women in their 60's who had been with the museum an average of 25 years.

Immediately thereafter, Dr. Frank J. Radovsky, chairman and holder of the Distinguished Service Chair in entomology, the Museum's top scientist, resigned in protest.

On June 30, outraged by the firings and the way they were carried out, a group of about 20 Hawaiians, environmentalists, professionals and others met to form Ho'o Hawai'i. In the weeks following, their number grew to twice that many.

On July 2 the first of two meetings with the Museum Director, Dr. Donald Duckworth, was held to challenge the policy which led to the firings. At both meetings Duckworth defended the actions and the policy entirely.

Since it was clear from these meetings that the Trustees were the source of the policy, from this point on Ho'o Hawai'i has communicated with the Trustees, some 25 of whom "own" the Museum.

On July 7, the first Family Sunday after the firings, over 700 signatures were gathered in a few hours on a petition demanding a reversal of the firings and greater public input into Museum policies.

Plans were also made to contact a Maori Delegation, who came to Hawai'i to attend an opening of a Museum exhibit honoring Te Rangi Hiroa (Sir Peter Buck), Director of the Museum from 1935-1951.

Members of Ho'o Hawai'i were finally able to communicate with the Maori elders after considerable obstruction and misrepresentation of Ho'o Hawai'i and its intentions.

The timing of the ceremony was both ironic and tragic, as it marked the virtual end of the Museum's ability to carry out future collaboration with the Maori in the research which Sir Peter had initiated.

On the same day as the Maori ceremony, Ho'o Hawai'i conducted a demonstration at noon and again during the evening rush hour, along Likelike Highway near the Museum. It drew enthusiastic support from about 50 demonstrators and 90% of hundreds of signalling motorists responding to such slogans as: "Save Hawaiian Heritage" and "Fire Trustees Not Researchers."

In the middle of July a number of kupuna (elders) were asked for their mana'o

(thoughts) on the firings.

All expressed concern that the inestimable Hawaiian treasures, housed at the Museum, not be jeopardized, nor access to them lost because of the Trustees' policies.

Some echoed the thought expressed in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin on July 9 by John Dominis Holt, "that the Bishop Museum does not belong to us. It remains a symbol of our losses...."

Marion Kelly's firing, in particular, aroused the ire of a number of Wai'anae residents at a meeting called by UHA (United Hawai'i Aloha) on August 4.

At the meeting, demands were heard that the Trustees be called to account or be replaced.

Serious concern was expressed about human remains (bones) at the Museum and how they were treated there. The Wai'anae folks decided to meet with the Trustees to present their concerns directly.

Also in late July The Hawai'i Herald, a Japanese English language newspaper, ran a story expressing concern over the firing of Kazuko Ginoto and the loss of half of the budget of the Hawai'i Immigrant Heritage Center, which was established earlier by community people.

In this, as in other ways, the Museum Trustees have cut important links between the Museum and some of the people who have supported or depended upon it or both.

At a meeting with a group of Trustees led by President Edwin L. Carter on August 15, members of Ho'o Hawai'i challenged the argument that the firings were the only action which could save the Museum financially, and demanded to see financial details.

During the discussion Mr. Carter refuted several statements about the financial condition of the Museum which the press had attributed to Museum spokesmen.

Three from Wai'anae also attended this meeting, along with six members of Ho'o Hawai'i.

All described the impact of the firings to the Trustees, who seemed to be learning many of these facts for the first time.

As this is written, Ho'o Hawai'i is still trying to obtain full data on the reasons for increased expenditures in administrative salaries at the Museum. These administrative salary increases appear to be behind the recent Museum financial problems which led to the firings.

By the time of the meeting with the Trustees, meanwhile, Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell had discovered through extensive interviews with many of those who had been dismissed how

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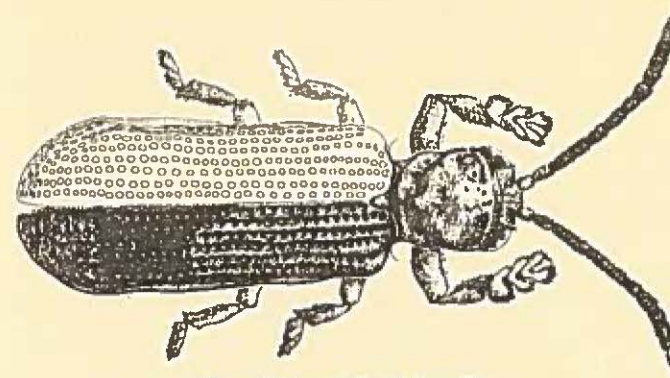
PRIVATE GRANT SAVES BEETLE COLLECTION FOR ONE YEAR

Shortly after Dr. G. Allan Samuelson was fired, a donation of \$48,000 was made to the Museum to keep Samuelson and one of the laid-off assistants for one year.

But the two will not be rehired by the Museum because the Museum is unwilling to pay him and his assistant's payroll benefits (insurance, social security, etc.).

They must therefore contract their services to the Museum and cover the payroll expenses themselves, as well as paying 4% tax on the total contract amount.

While forcing Samuelson and his assistant to cover their own expenses, the Museum management is still keeping 10% of the total donation amount for "overhead".



New Guinea leaf beetle.
Bishop Museum collection

HEAVY LOSSES FOR HAWAIIAN RESEARCH

The public is not fully aware that the losses to research have not been limited to the recent firings at the Museum.

In the study of Hawaiian culture alone, over the past decade at least another 6 outstanding researchers have left the Museum for various reasons without being replaced.

They have included:

-- Kenneth Emory, the renowned "father" of Hawaiian archeology;

-- Mary Kawena Pukui, author, co-author, source, or translator of dozens of books and articles, who has been recognized as a "Living Treasure" of Hawai'i;

-- Pat Kirch, author of works on pre-contact Hawai'i;

-- Doug Yen, an expert on Polynesian plants used by ancient Hawaiians;

-- Adrienne Kaeppler, who created the Hawaiian exhibit entitled "Artificial Curiosities" which toured the Mainland; and

-- Dorothy Barrere, translator, historian,

and co-author of publications on the oral traditions of native Hawai'i.

Now, Marion Kelly (an expert on native land use and culture) and Pat McCoy (an outstanding archaeologist) have been dismissed.

Just three researchers in their field are now left out of what had once been a very strong staff. Of the three, one does not work in Hawai'i and the other two are just beginning their careers.

ARE MEMBERSHIPS THE ANSWER?

Duckworth feels that it is wrong to have 7,000 Hawai'i citizens be members of the Smithsonian Museum of Washington, D.C., where he used to work, and only 4,000 be members at the Bishop Museum where he works now.

So he has launched a top-priority public relations campaign to raise the local membership at Bishop Museum.

This is somehow supposed to help solve the financial problem at the Museum.

To really make a difference, Duckworth would have to sell about 100,000 memberships a year. This adds up to about every civilian family on the Island of O'ahu, which just doesn't make any real sense.

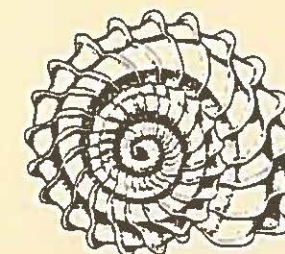
1,800 SIGN PETITIONS

Volunteers from all over O'ahu, Moloka'i and Maui have devoted time and effort to circulating a petition calling upon the Museum Trustees to "immediately reinstate" the fired Museum staff.

The petition also calls on the Trustees to allow the public to participate in any future plan for the Museum.

People came to a public demonstration on July 18th in front of the Museum, wrote to Ho'o Hawai'i, and circulated the petitions.

Your support has meant a lot to all of us who want to see research once again become a major part of the Museum, and who wish the Museum to be more open to the community upon which it relies.



BACKGROUNDS OF SEVERAL FIRED RESEARCHERS...

DR. CARL CHRISTENSEN, MALACOLOGIST

Carl Christensen was the third generation of malacologists at Bishop Museum to become expert on Hawaiian land shells.

Hawai'i originally was inhabited by about 1,000 species of native land snails, more than 99% of them found nowhere else in the world.

The Museum's interest in these fascinating and rare shelled animals began with receiving the Baldwin collection in the 1890s and Dr. C. Montague Cooke Jr.'s work in the 1920s and '30s in Hawai'i and the Pacific, later passed on to Dr. Yoshio Kondo, and then continued with Dr. Kondo's encouragement to Carl Christensen when Carl was still in high school.

One of the important services provided to the community by such experts is information about what is needed to protect those land shells that are left.

As one of few people knowledgeable about Hawaiian land snails, Christensen served as an information resource for State and Federal agencies needing information on endangered land snails and pest slugs and snails. Christensen has also worked closely with Museum archaeologists in studies of landscape change in Hawai'i.

In addition to the most complete and important collection of Hawaiian land shells in the world, the Museum also has the most comprehensive collection of Pacific Island land shells.

To close this collection to science is tragic. It is imperative that the collection be re-opened with the necessary curatorial staff to care for it.

If not, Hawai'i stands to lose one of its most facinating and scientifically important treasures.

FRANK HOWARTH, RESEARCHER AND CURATOR

Dr. Frank Howarth worked in the Museum's Entomology Department for over 14 years.

There, he has studied, collected, classified, and preserved the insects of Hawai'i and the Pacific, as well as facilitated and encouraged other scientists to do such research and thereby increase our knowledge of the fabulous insects of Hawai'i. Hawaiian insects are unique. While they may be similar to species elsewhere, nearly all of

them are simply found nowhere else in the world.

In addition to his work with the Museum's extensive collections, he has found the time to carry on original research. Soon after he was hired, he discovered the Hawaiian cave fauna (animals that live in lava tubes) and began his pioneering work on them.

Dr. Howarth was the first scientist ever to collect and classify these bizarre cave creatures.

The cave creatures, strangely altered from ancestors that had once been surface insects, are of special scientific interest because they changed so much in the short time, relatively speaking, that there has been life on these Hawaiian Islands.

He has also discovered an aeolian (wind-supported) ecosystem in the rocky zones at the tops of the highest volcanoes. Insects like the wekiū bugs atop Mauna Kea survive by eating other insects blown up from below, frozen in the snow, and then exposed as the snow melts in the springtime.

These and other discoveries have brought international fame to Bishop Museum's Entomology Department, not to mention thousands of dollars from the National Science Foundation and the National Park Service.

By firing Dr. Howarth, the Museum saved what little money they spent on his salary, but lost considerable sums that would have been brought in by future grants.

Worse, the Museum has lost Dr. Howarth's irreplaceable expertise. He is heir to a famed 90-year tradition of Museum research in this field. This tradition is part of our Island heritage -- and it will die with Dr. Howarth's firing unless something is done to save it.

KAZUKO SINOTO, RESEARCHER

Kazuko Sinoto worked for the Bishop Museum part-time and full-time for over 13 years. During the last 9 years she worked in the Hawai'i Immigrant Heritage Preservation Center (HIHPC), a division of the Anthropology Department, as a curatorial assistant and specialist for Japanese collections.

Sinoto's greatest recent accomplishment was to co-author the book: A Pictorial History of Japanese In Hawaii, 1885-1924, published in 1985.

In addition, she translated the entire text 6

for a Japanese edition of this popular book, celebrating the centennial of Japanese in Hawai'i.

Her search for photographs over the last 8 years and her research to identify the photographers who took them, the people in them, and the circumstances under which they were taken -- time, place and reason -- provided the documentation for the nearly 350 illustrations used in the book.

Sinoto also organized a travelling exhibit of 90 photographs selected from the book, to visit Japan and the Neighbor Hawaiian Islands.

These projects were supported by grants from several sources, of over \$65,000.

In September, after touring 8 cities in Japan with the photographs exhibit, she was fired by the Museum. Her knowledge and experience gathered in 8 years of research was rejected by the Museum. The HIHPC division will suffer, as will the community for the lack of support from the Museum for immigrant heritage preservation.

MARION KELLY, RESEARCHER

Marion Kelly, a part-time associate professor at the University of Hawai'i and full-time anthropologist at the Bishop Museum for almost 27 years, was fired July 15, 1985, without cause.

Her lifetime study was the relationship between Hawaiians and the land they lived on. She is the foremost expert on the transformation of ancient Hawaiian land-use rights into private land ownership in the mid-19th century.

Her interest in Hawaiian culture comes naturally. She was born and raised in Hawai'i, and her great-grandmother was a Polynesian from the Cook Islands.

While still a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i, professor Kelly began working part-time at Bishop Museum. In 1959 she was promoted to research assistant in anthropology there.

Her research techniques included searching the old legends, genealogies, explorer's accounts and missionary memoirs, as well as locating tax and court records, maps and old photographs. She interviewed old-timers who remembered the experiences of their youth and what their kupuna (grandparents) taught them. She sought out their valuable information about Hawaiian culture and values, genealogies and legends, use of the land, its trails, fishponds, cultivation methods, fishing grounds, and all the bits and pieces relating

to the places where they lived.

Very few before Kelly had investigated local history and land-use in such detail, using such a variety of methods.

One result of her research is a list several pages long of her articles, reports, and other publications. These help preserve the past for future generations.

Other parts of her work are less obvious, though scarcely less important. She has been a teacher and lecturer who has educated students, teachers and the general public in Hawaiian culture and the Hawaiian past.

She is a consultant to archaeologists, where she helps provide information to supplement their excavations.

She has served as an expert witness in court concerning land-use issues, and she has testified before legislative committees.

But, most of all, she is a friend to Hawaiian and grass-roots communities across the State who are trying to establish their identity, understand their history, and deal with problems which they face today.

Today, she stands fired from her job by a Museum management which seems to no longer care enough for her research and for research in general.

What message are Hawaiians and all the people of Hawai'i to read in this?

DR. PAT MCCOY, ARCHAEOLOGIST

On June 21, 1985, the Museum notified 2 senior members of the Anthropology Department staff that they were fired. One of the victims of this "Aloha Friday massacre" was Dr. Patrick Carlton McCoy, acting Chairman of the Department.

Dr. McCoy was a senior archaeologist. He is well-known for his archaeological research on Easter Island, Vaito'otia, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Guam.

He has also done extensive work in our own Islands, at Keauhou (Big Island), at Ho'omaluhia (O'ahu), on Kaua'i and on Moloka'i, and particularly at the Mauna Kea adz quarries.

His research in the adz quarries on Mauna Kea has revealed that there had once been in ancient Hawai'i an elite class of tool-making kahuna (specialists), with their own distinctive shrines, rituals, diet and artifacts.

This discovery is an important contribution to current research on the evolution of ancient Hawaiian society.

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There are many such sites yet to be excavated, and they must be studied soon or they will be destroyed and lost forever.

Developments for tourism, highways, even agriculture and urban expansion, destroy irreplaceable evidence of the past.

Archaeologists like Dr. McCoy must get there before the bulldozers, if anything is to be studied and preserved.

For close to one hundred years, the Bishop Museum lived up to its charter of being a scientific research institution dedicated to the study and preservation of the past.

Now, with that past vanishing at an ever-increasing rate and requiring expanded research, experts like Dr. McCoy are needed more than ever.

DR. G. ALLAN SAMUELSON, MUSEUM RESEARCHER

One of those laid off July 15th was G. Allan Samuelson.

Dr. Samuelson came to the Museum's Department of Entomology (study of insects) 23 years ago to work under the guidance of the late J. Linsley Gressitt, who was chairman at that time.

As curator of the Coleoptera (beetle) collection, Samuelson was responsible for the largest single collection in the department, containing between three and four million pinned specimens.

Under Gressitt and Samuelson, it became a world-class collection, with the best sampling anywhere of Pacific beetles.

Samuelson was called upon to identify insects from all over the Pacific and Asia. This has been a service given by the Museum to the outside world, as well as to local agencies such as the State Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawai'i.

For example, he would receive leaf beetles specimens from the government of Papua New Guinea for identification and research because the Museum has the most important collection of leaf beetles from that area.

This service is important to helping agriculture in such countries.

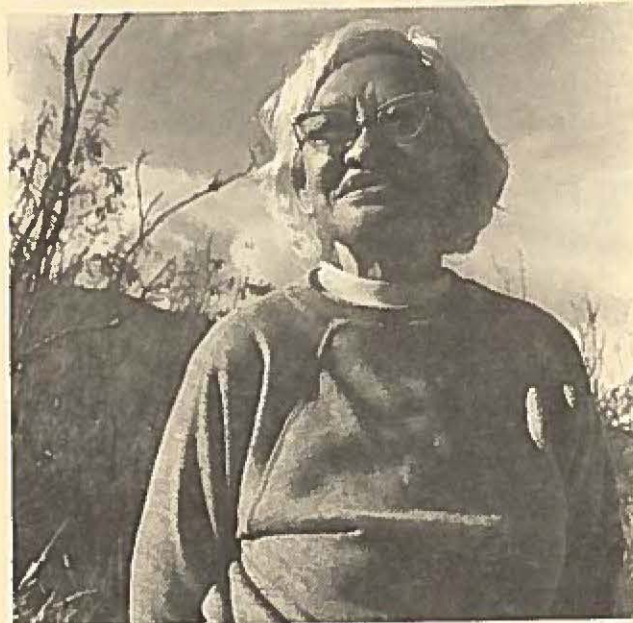
Samuelson has developed an interest in all Hawaiian beetles, the ecology of forest insects, and the ecology of atoll insects.

He was hoping to write a Manual of Hawaiian Beetles that would have been an important service to government agencies, students, and

the public.

Samuelson is devoted to the collections and gets great satisfaction out of providing identification and information service to the Hawaiian, Pacific and Asian communities.

With the lay-off of its research staff and the resignation of its chairman (Radovsky), the Entomology Department was left without a single full-time practicing qualified curator.

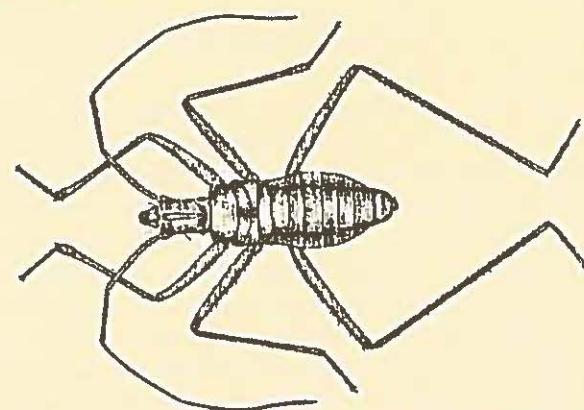


Wilhelmina Bailey, former resident of Makua Valley Hawaiian fishing and farming community, shared her memories with Bishop Museum researcher Marion Kelly. The valley is now a U.S. Army bombing target.

WHO ARE THE TRUSTEES?

Among the corporations represented on the Museum Board of Trustees are two banks (First Hawaiian and Bank of Hawai'i), two trust companies (Hawaiian Trust and Bishop Trust), two construction companies, three law firms, five real estate/investment companies, and the Hawai'i Visitors Bureau.

Ho'o Hawai'i questions whether these corporate representatives are truly qualified to carry out the objectives of the Museum's charter.



Blind water treader from a Hawaiian lava tube.
Bishop Museum collection

U.H. SCIENTIST SHOCKED AT FIRINGS

"Total surprise ... shock ... no other alternative but to lay off Frank Howarth and Allan Samuelson? ... I can't believe it."

Thus spoke Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro, interim director of the UH Hawaiian Evolution Biology Program and authority on drosophila fruit fly speciation, about the recent firings of top scientists at the Bishop Museum.

The departure of Drs. Howarth and Samuelson, said Dr. Kaneshiro, is also a serious blow to the proposed Decade of the Tropics program now being considered by a granting agency.

Museum researchers helped write the grant application for the new program which tightens the relationship, by formal collaborative investigation, between the Manoa campus and the Museum.

One reason in favor of the grant was that it would allow the University to take advantage of the considerable experience already acquired by the Museum scientists from their Ecology Station in New Guinea.

"We need that experience and the Museum's extensive collections to pursue basic biological research on the evolution of plants and animals unique to Hawai'i," continued Dr. Kaneshiro.

By comparing the New Guinea experience with the findings here in Hawai'i, general principles of biological adaptation might be distinguished from features unique to only localized or isolated ecosystems. Dr. Howarth's exciting discoveries on distinctive lava tube species and Dr. Samuelson's vast knowledge on beetles throughout the Pacific rendered these two workers especially valuable to the Decade of the Tropics proposal.

But with the firing of Howarth and Samuelson, who will replace them?

STATE OFFICIALS CONCERNED OVER FIRING

Mr. George Y. Funasaki, chief of the State Department of Agriculture's Plant Pest Control Branch, says the Department was dismayed by the report in June of the Bishop Museum's terminations of entomologists Dr. Allan Samuelson and Dr. Frank Howarth (insect experts), malacologist Dr. Carl Christensen (land snail expert), and the resignation of the Museum's Chairman of Entomology, Dr. Frank Radovsky, in protest.

Troubled officials in the Department of

Agriculture, who depend on these Museum experts for the State's work in pest control, helped prepare a letter of concern from Board of Agriculture Chairman Jack Suwa to Mr. Edwin Carter, the president of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

The August 19th letter states that Museum scientists have been of "valuable, frequent assistance by expeditiously identifying intercepted or newly discovered agricultural pests required by biological control programs."

In an interview with a representative of Ho'o Hawai'i, Mr. Funasaki cited some recent examples of the Museum's assistance:

--The first species of midge ectoparasite in Hawai'i, discovered clinging to a Palolo Valley damselfly, was confirmed by Dr. Frank Howarth of the Museum.

--Bloodsucking and bacterial-vector black mites, found on a snake in a Waikiki hotelroom, the first of its species in Hawai'i, was confirmed by Dr. Frank Radovsky, who pointed out the possible danger of these mites to lizards in Hawai'i. Dr. Radovsky also serves on the Department of Agriculture's Advisory Subcommittee on Entomology.

--Christmas trees from the West Coast brought three families of beetles that were new to Hawai'i. Dr. Allan Samuelson, who identified them, pointed out that these beetles are capable of killing trees.

--A species of slug new to Hawai'i, also found with imported Christmas trees, was identified by Dr. Carl Christensen, who said these slugs can also damage vegetable and flower gardens.

The letter of concern to Carter also refers to the Museum's "most extensive insect reference collection in the Pacific Basin, its publications of value to scientists and agencies worldwide, its library reflecting highly significant ecological, zoogeographical and medical entomology research, extensive faunal surveys and taxonomic studies, which should continue to be accessible."

With the departure of the Museum's senior investigators in these areas, who will fill the void to provide the needed expertise to the State, the Pacific Basin, and other scientists and agencies worldwide?



QUOTES EXCERPTED FROM LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR AND ARTICLES

July 23, 1985.

Mr. Edwin L. Carter
President, Museum Trustees
Dear Mr. Carter,

We are distressed and unhappy with the Museum's decision to eliminate the research staff. Through the years, our community of Wai'anae has greatly benefited from the efforts of many of the people who have been let go....

Beyond our concern for the current research staff ... lies a deeper worry about the apparent change in definition of purpose for our Museum.

The great museums have never seen themselves only as "community education" institutions; they have done community education and displayed collections as an extension of their research efforts.

Bishop Museum has a solid reputation of many, many years standing as a research institution; to abandon that focus seems to us a disastrous course.

Billie Hauge
Wai'anae Community Leader

"The anthropology staff got together and proposed a cut in their pay so no one would be laid off, but their offer wasn't accepted."

Aki Sinoto
Public Archaeology
Contract Manager,
Bishop Museum

"We argued on the other hand that the museum would be better off to appeal to Hawaiians and the community at large for help in solving its problems. It is little realized that Hawaiians and Hawaiian organizations have successfully raised large sums of money for causes they believe in. And they are the first to volunteer services in any public cause...."

Stephen T. Boggs
UH Professor Emeritus of
Anthropology

"Trustees should also seek the visitor industry's kokua to advertise and support the museum. You shouldn't be able to get off any plane in this state without seeing a big poster that says, 'See the Bishop Museum.'"

Mililani Trask
Attorney

"Our Legislature, supported by the governor, should make an annual appropriation more commensurate with the Bishop Museum's demonstrated worth to the community, a practice which though long followed on the Mainland has not yet really reached Hawaii."

Alexander Spoehr
Former Museum Director

"Of the trustees over the years, I would like to ask: ... Where was your business expertise or just common sense when, year after year, you accepted almost casual financial reports and never made an external audit to determine the real state of the institution and its assets?"

J. V. Miller

August 19, 1985.

Ho'o Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

What's going on with the Board of Trustees of Bishop Museum?

I have always had high regards for the Museum and over the years have had great respect for the Museum's archaeologists and anthropologists because they have assisted (the group) Hui Alaloa in contested case hearings on development projects on Moloka'i.

The credibility of Bishop Museum stems from the people/staff/experts in respective areas.

The reputation of the Museum is now in question in my opinion....

It was through people that came from Bishop Museum, who had reputations and credibility, that we were helped in protecting and preserving a site a Pu'u O Kaiaka, a Heiau.

There are no words that I can find right now to say mahalo for their work, and to express my concern over the firings of these people.

Joyce Kainoa
Lawai'a (fisherwoman) and
mahi'ai (farmer),
Moloka'i

(continued from page 4.)

serious the damage had been to research, the maintenance of Museum collections, future research and accreditation of the Museum, and to vital programs of the State Department of Agriculture and Department of Health. This information surprised all of us.

In an effort to make this information known, Ho'o Hawai'i has prepared this newsletter on the researchers and the broad negative impact of the firings.

3 Sept 1985.

Dr. Don Duckworth
Bishop Museum
Dear Dr. Duckworth,

I am devastated by the news I have received from a friend in the States that there have been drastic cuts in the entomology department of your museum. After six years in Indonesia I have come to rely on that department for specialist knowledge on non-butterfly and non-crop-related insects of this part of the world.

Is the priceless collection now to be split up and dispersed to other institutions or will you maintain it in its present state without planning for growth? Either way it would seem to be the very worst that could happen. Are the cuts regarded as permanent or is there some hope that positions will be recreated?

I realise that similar cuts are occurring in most developed countries but the degree to which the museum will suffer does not seem to correlate with the importance of your world class collections or the irreplaceable service given to national and international scientists.

Research must be an integral part of a museum's life if it is to maintain credibility.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Anthony J. Whitten
Long Term Advisor
Environmental Manpower
Development in Indonesia
Bogor, Indonesia

HOMER HAYES, HAWAIIAN HISTORIAN

Speaking to a Ho'o Hawai'i interviewer, Homer Hayes, President of Hayes Guard Service, reported that he had always had cooperation from the Museum in his research, and had cooperated with it in return.

But, he continued, many Hawaiians hesitate to work closely with the Museum for reasons of their own.

"We should encourage a new relationship, develop a closer feeling between the kupuna especially and the Museum," he said.

Later, he recalled that during the ceremony welcoming the Maori elders to the Museum on July 13th, he had written the following in his notebook:

"I hope to see the day when Hawaiian elders on special occasions come to the Museum to revere these artifacts, (that they) will receive the same kind of welcome, protocol, etc., the Maori received."

"The terminations indicate a tremendous decrease in the core capability upon which the museum has depended to provide answers to pressing questions about our Islands' future welfare."

Edward Creutz
Former Museum Director

"This cut is so serious, it's going to reverberate around the world. It means the direction of the research arm of the museum is going to drastically change."

Al Samuelson
Museum Entomologist

"Unlike the many scientists in Hawaii who make their living producing environmental impact statements paid for by government agencies or private developers, museum researchers can speak out freely on important issues, without worrying about the effects that free speech will have on earnings and profits. As our modern world steps up the pace of change, this independent voice will certainly be missed."

Kenneth P. Emory
Anthropologist

"How long can the exhibits remain current when they are deprived of the primary research that made them possible in the first place? Will the people of Hawaii be satisfied with a museum full of exhibits that lack the new information, provided by primary research, that brings them to life?"

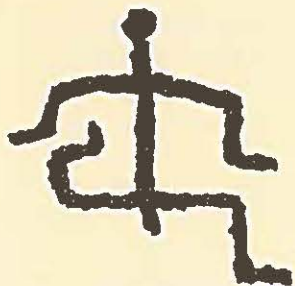
Kenneth P. Emory
Anthropologist

"We want to know what other options were considered for resolving the financial problem, and what the plan is that they have now to get out of it."

Stephen T. Boggs
UH Professor Emeritus of
Anthropology



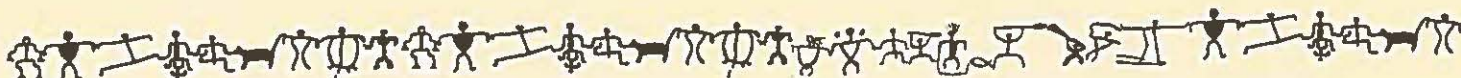
Museum archaeologists Aki Sinoto, L., and Dr. Pat McCoy field studied prehistoric Mauna Kea adz quarry.



HO'O HAWAI'I, a Committee
Concerned for the Museum's Future
3020 Manoa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

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As Dr. Kenneth P. Emory, retired Museum scientist, said: "Today this proud heritage is in grave danger of being lost." Without its basic research staff, the Museum is on its way to becoming just another entertainment center for tourism. Without its research staff, the Museum will have lost its soul.

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT? IF YOU BELIEVE WHAT 1800 PETITION SIGNERS BELIEVE, THAT THE CITIZENS OF HAWAI'I SHOULD HAVE SOME SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM, PLEASE HELP HO'O HAWAI'I WITH ITS TWO MAIN CONCERNS: reverse the firings, and develop a good public input program to find the best plan for the future of the Museum without destroying its soul. It is not too late!

Mail to: Ho'o Hawai'i, 3020 Manoa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.

☐ I would like to volunteer my time.

☐ I will write letters to protest the firings.

☐ I would like to help with expenses.

☐ I will request my legislators hold public hearings.

☐ I would like more information.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____